

Message Text

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SUBJ: SHORT TERM AMERICAN GRANTEES (STAG) AND GOI REQUEST FOR
SOCIAL WELFARE ADVISORS

REF: A. STATE 161618 B. STATE 166790

SUMMARY: MINISTRY OF SOCIAL WELFARE STILL IN PROCESS OF
FORMATION AND HAS BEEN GIVEN ENORMOUS WELFARE MANDATE IN IRANIAN
AREAS WHERE NO BASIC RESEARCH HAS EVER BEEN DONE. MINISTRY RE-
COGNIZES ITS LACK OF TRAINED AND EXPERIENCED PERSONNEL AND
REQUESTS DHEW ADVISORS IN SEVERAL FIELDS AS WELL AS COPIES OF
LATEST US WELFARE AND REHABILITATION STUDIES. END SUMMARY.

1. EMBOFF EXPLORED MINISTER SHEIKHOLESLAMIZADEH'S REQUESTS AND
STATE OF DEVELOPMENT OF MINISTRY WITH DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR PLANNING
AND RESEARCH, MRS SHAHSHANI, AUGUST 4. SHE EMPHASIZED THAT NEWLY
CREATED MINISTRY OF SOCIAL WELFARE WAS STILL IN PROCESS OF FILLING
POSITIONS AND DEFINING ITS OPERATIONS BUT THAT MINISTRY HAS BEEN
GIVEN TASK OF CONTROLLING OR, IN CASE OF VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATIONS,
COORDINATING ENTIRE NATIONAL WELFARE EFFORT. MRS SHAHSHANI ADMITTED
MINISTRY AND GOI AS A WHOLE WERE SINGULARLY UNPREPARED TO DO SO.
IRANIAN WELFARE PROGRAMS HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED IN SEPARATE AND OFTEN
DUPLICATIVE FASHION. ENTRENCHED PROGRAMS ARE NOW RESISTING DIR-
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LECTION BY NEW MINISTRY AND ULTIMATE JURISDICTION OF MINISTRY HAS

YET TO BE WORKED OUT.

2. IN PRACTICAL TERMS MINISTRY IS CHARGED WITH IMPLEMENTATION OF FAR-REACHING WELFARE PLANS RECENTLY PROMULGATED BY SHAH. THIS WILL MEAN CREATION FROM THE GROUND UP FOR PROGRAMS SUCH AS SOCIAL SECURITY OR MEDICAL INSURANCE FOR WHICH NO BASIC RESEARCH STUDIES HAVE EVER BEEN DONE IN IRAN. IN ADDITION, IRAN LACKS TECHNICAL EXPERTISE IN VIRTUALLY ALL WELFARE AREAS. FOR THIS REASON SHEIKHOLESLIMIZADEH HAS REQUESTED THAT DHEW GIVE CONSIDERATION TO A GROUP OF EXPERT (AND FLEXIBLE) ADVISORS, WITH PREVIOUS OVERSEAS EXPERIENCE IF POSSIBLE, WHO WOULD BE KNOWLEDGEABLE IN MORE THAN ONE FIELD AND CAPABLE OF HELPING TO SET UP AND DEFINE A WELFARE PROGRAM WHILE RECRUITING AND TRAINING THEIR IRANIAN SUCCESSORS.

3. MINISTRY SPECIFICALLY REQUESTS ADVISORS IN FOLLOWING FIELDS:

- A. REHABILITATION OF PROSTITUTES.
- B. REHABILITATION OF DRUG ADDICTS.
- C. REHABILITATION OF THE MENTALLY ILL.
- D. MEDICAL INSURANCE.
- E. SOCIAL SECURITY.
- F. YOUTH ACTIVITIES AND CHILD CARE.
- G. CARE FOR THE AGED.
- H. OVERALL SOCIAL WELFARE.
- I. CREATION OF BASIC RESEARCH PROGRAMS.

4. MRS SHAHSHANI ALSO REQUESTED ASAP ALL AVAILABLE DHEW OR OTHER PUBLICATIONS ON ABOVE WELFARE PROGRAMS, INCLUDING A DEMOGRAPHIC STUDY. SHE STRESSED THAT PUBLICATIONS SHOULD BE STUDIES IN SUFFICIENT DETAIL TO GIVE MINISTRY GOOD IDEA OF HOW TO BEGIN PLANNING FOR SIMILAR PROGRAMS IN IRAN.

5. EMBOFF INFORMED MRS SHAHSHANI OF VISIT TO IRAN OF MRS CLARA BODAGHI (REF B) AND ARRANGED APPOINTMENT.

6. COMMENT: IN WAKE OF SHAH'S RECENT STATEMENTS AND INCREASED EMPHASIS ON WELFARE IN REVISED FIFTH PLAN, MINISTRY IS UNDER CONSIDERABLE PRESSURE TO PRODUCE. SHAH CONSIDERS REALIZATION OF WELFARE SCHEMES FUNDAMENTAL TO HIS PLANS FOR IRANIAN GREAT CIVILIZATION. THIS HELPS EXPLAIN MINISTRY'S SENSE OF URGENCY AND WILLINGNESS, ACCORDING TO MRS SHAHSHANI, TO PAY COSTS FOR ADVISORS IF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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STAG GRANTEES ARE NOT AVAILABLE. MRS BODAGHI WILL ATTEMPT TO LEARN MORE SPECIFICS ABOUT MINISTRY'S NEEDS AND WE WILL PASS THIS INFORMATION TO DEPARTMENT AND DHEW.

HELMS

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